

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0361

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1861

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ARA/MGT, ASEC, RCO/ARA

SUBJECT: COUNTER-TERRORIST PROGRAM BUENOS AIRES

REF: BA 1616 AND STATE 057490

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE MEASURES FOR UP GRADING THE COUNTER-TERRORIST PROGRAM AT B. A. WHICH HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE (SWC). I CONCUR IN THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FEEL THAT SUCH STEPS ARE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MINIMAL PROTECTION FOR ALL PERSONNEL.

A. RECOMMENDATION: EVERY MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY STAFF BE PROVIDED WITH A STATIC GUARD IN ORDER TO PROVIDE COVERAGE OF INDIVIDUALS DURING HIGH TARGET PERIODS. COVERAGE TO BE FOR SIX HOUR PERIODS DURING MORNINGS AND EVENINGS (TOTAL 12 HOURS EACH DAY). THESE STATIC GUARDS TO BE LOCATED AT INDIVIDUAL DWELLINGS, THUS PROVIDING PROTECTION WHEN DEPARTING FOR AND RETURNING FROM WORK PERMITTING STAGGERED WORK HOURS.

COMMENTS: PRESENT STRENGTH OF THE EMBASSY IS 123 INDIVIDUALS WHICH INCLUDES 22 SECURITY PERSONNEL AND EIGHT COMMUNICATORS. CURRENTLY THERE ARE 31 INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE STATIC GUARDS ON THEIR RESIDENCES. EACH NEW STATIC GUARD POST (12 HOURS) WILL COST \$1070 U.S. DOLLARS PER MONTH OR \$12,840 ANNUALLY. TOTAL COST OF THIS RECOMMENDATION WILL DEPEND ON NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS

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ASSIGNED TO THE POST. THIS PROGRAM WILL TAKE SEVERAL

WEEKS TO IMPLEMENT AFTER DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL SINCE QUALIFIED PERSONNEL WILL HAVE TO BE IDENTIFIED, INTERVIEWED AND INVESTIGATED PRIOR TO EMPLOYMENT. COST FOR GUARD SERVICE WILL BE CHARGED TO THE DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL STAFF MEMBER REPRESENTS.

B. RECOMMENDATION: PRESENT MOBILE GUARD FORCE (4 PATROLS 24 HOUR BASIS) BE INCREASED BY THREE UNITS ON A PART-TIME BASIS. THESE ADDITIONAL PATROL CARS TO OPERATE SIX HOURS DURING THE MORNING AND SIX HOURS DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON AND EVENING. THEY WILL PROVIDE ESCORT SERVICE TO CAR POOLS DURING THE HIGH RISK PERIOD AND IN GOING TO AND RETURNING FROM WORK. ESCORT SERVICE WILL CONSIST OF ACCOMPANYING THE CAR POOL FROM THE RESIDENTIAL AREA TO MAJOR TRAFFIC ARTERIES.

COMMENT: EACH NEW PATROL CAR WILL COST \$31,000 ANNUALLY WITH A TOTAL OF \$93,200 FOR THE THREE UNITS OPERATING 12 HOURS EACH DAY. COST FOR THIS SERVICE WILL BE CHARGED AGAINST SAS. AFTER APPROVAL FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION IS RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT SEVERAL WEEKS WILL BE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM SINCE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT WILL NEED TO BE ACQUIRED.

C. RECOMMENDATION: DISGUISE RADIO ANTENNAS BE OBTAINED FROM OC FOR THE TWO WAY RADIO UNITS BEING OPERATED FROM VEHICLES. PRESENT ANTENNA USDD IS SIMILAR TO THOSE EMPLOYED BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES AND IDENTIFIES AUTOMOBILES AS EITHER DIPLOMATIC OR POLICE UNITS.

COMMENTS: REQUEST RCO PROCURE AND SUPPLY TO THE EMBASSY ON EMERGENCY BASIS 30 DISGUISED RADIO ANTENNAS.

D. RECOMMENDATION: ALL OFFICIAL VEHICLES BE EQUIPPED WITH SHOTGUNS FOR USE BY PASSENGERS. APPROPRIATE RACKS FOR HANGING THE GUNS ON THE BACK OF THE FRONT SEAT, AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING EASY ACCESS REQUIRED ALONG WITH THE WEAPONS.

COMMENT: REQUEST A/SY/FO PROVIDE 30 PUMP SHOTGUNS, 12 CONFIDENTIAL

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GAUGE, TO BE USED KN VEHICLES. THREE OF THE UNITS WILL BE USED IN THE ADDITIONAL PATROL CARS. SUPPORT AMMUNITION WILL BE NEEDED WITH THESE WEAPONS.

2. I REPEAT, I CONSIDER THE ABOVE MEASURES TO BE MINIMAL IN PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR EMBASSY STAFF IN LIGHT OF EXISTING TERRORIST THREAT.
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